(c) whether there has been demand for reduction of fare and increase in the connectivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Though connectivity on India-Arab/Middle East countries route has increased over the years and the average fares have also dropped, there have been demands for further increase in connectivity and reduction in fares. Traffic rights on international routes are reviewed from time to time to address the growth in capacity demand.

Violations of Safety Norms by Private Airlines

596. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Open Sky Policy has been successful in the country;

(b) whether there were any instances in which private airlines were found to be violating safety norms during their operations;

(c) if so, the details of such instances; and

(d) the action taken in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While Government has gradually liberalised the traffic entitlements on foreign routes, no 'open sky' policy has been adopted.

(b) to (d) As per records, four such incidents were reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation *viz.* incident of taking off from the wrong runway, overrun incident, falling of a passenger from step ladder and wrong entry of run-way by the aircraft during the period 2002-2005. Remedial action had been initiated immediately after such incidents by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation as per the established procedures and safety guidelines.